

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the present application. The present response cancels claims 13-20, leaving pending in the application claims 1-12. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-20 are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the need for restriction, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-12) in order to expedite examination and issuance of those claims. Accordingly, the claims of Group II (claims 13-20) are canceled from the present application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims of Group II at a later time.

II. Conclusion

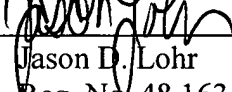
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. NSC1-M4400. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed November 29, 2004, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

STALLMAN & POLLOCK LLP

Dated: December 26, 2004

By: 
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